## Case 2:12-cv-04653-JS Document 1 Filed 08/16/12 Page 1 of 10

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil declar sheet. (SEE DISTRICTIONS ON THE PROPERS OF THE FORM)

	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)	DECENDANTS		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS CECIL SHIELDS		DEFENDANTS  NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS INC		
CECIL SHIELDS		NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.		
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant		
• •	me, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE		
Craig Thor Kimmel, E Kimmel & Silverman,		LAND INVOLVED.		
30 E. Butler Pike	P.C.	Attorneys (If Known)		
Ambler, PA 19002				
(215) 540-8888 II. BASIS OF JURISI	NOTION OF GREEN STATE	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This State  PTF DEF  Citizen of This State  D 1 DEF  Incorporated or Principal Place  Of Business In This State		
2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State		
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	of Business In Another State		
		Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6 6 Foreign Country		
IV. NATURE OF SUI				
CONTRACT	TORTS			
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR  □ 310 Airplane □ 362 Personal Injury -			
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic Liability ☐ 365 Personal Injury -			
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment		y 3 630 Liquor Laws PROPERTY RIGHTS 3 460 Deportation		
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	Slander □ 368 Asbestos Persona □ 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product	al		
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability Liability	☐ 660 Occupational ☐ 840 Trademark 🗷 480 Consumer Credit		
Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER ☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud	RTY Safety/Health 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service		
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 🗖 371 Truth in Lending	SOCIAL SECURITY   850 Securities/Commodities/		
of Veteran's Benefits  ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	□ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 380 Other Personal □ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	e Act		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability 🔲 385 Property Damage	e 🖂 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 🖂 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 12 USC 3410		
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Product Liability Injury	/ 🖂 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting 💢 864 SSID Title XVI 💢 890 Other Statutory Actions & Disclosure Act 🖂 865 RSI (405(g)) 🖂 891 Agricultural Acts		
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITION	NS 740 Railway Labor Act FEDERAL TAX SUITS 7892 Economic Stabilization Act		
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions to Vacat ☐ 442 Employment Sentence	te		
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	Security Act 🖸 871 IRS—Third Party 🚨 895 Freedom of Information		
☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	26 USC 7609 Act  ☐ 900Appeal of Fee Determination		
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities - D 540 Mandamus & Otl	ther		
	Employment	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus - to Justice  Alien Detainee ☐ 950 Constitutionality of		
	Other	☐ 465 Other Immigration State Statutes		
	440 Other Civil Rights	Actions		
V. ORIGIN (Place	<b>l</b>	Appeal to District		
▼1 Original □ 2 Re	ate Court Appellate Court	☐ 4 Reinstated or ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict ☐ 7 Magistrate ☐ Magistrate ☐ 1 Judgment		
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of cause: Fair Debt Collection Practices A	ct		
VII. REQUESTED IN		,		
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	JURY DEMAND:   Yes  No		
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	DOCKET NUMBER		
Explanation:				
DATE	SIGNATURE O	OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD		
nelualio		/		
<u> </u>	·			

## Case 2:12-cv-04653-JS Document 1 Filed 08/16/12 Page 2 of 10

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

CIVIL ACTION

**CECIL SHIELDS** 

(Civ. 660) 10/02

v.		:		
NCO FINANCIAL SYS	STEMS, INC.	:	NO.	
plaintiff shall complete a filing the complaint and s side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant	Case Management Case Management of the Case Management that a depart of the Case Management	nt Track De defendants. efendant do est appearan ement Track	elay Reduction Plan of this court, counsignation Form in all civil cases at the to (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reserved submit to the clerk of court and served Designation Form specifying the track to	time of reverse ag said on the
SELECT ONE OF THI	E FOLLOWING	CASE MA	NAGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.				
(b) Social Security – Cas and Human Services			sion of the Secretary of Health ity Benefits.	( )
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.				
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.				
commonly referred to	as complex and the	nat need spe	acks (a) through (d) that are cial or intense management by ed explanation of special	( )
(f) Standard Managemen	nt – Cases that do r	not fall into	any one of the other tracks.	()
08 16 12 Date	Craig Thor K Attorney-at-la		Plaintiff, Cecil Shields Attorney for	·
<u>215-540-8888</u> Telephone	877-788-2864 FAX Number		kimmel@creditlaw.com E-Mail Address	

# Case 2:12-cv-04653-JS Document 1 Filed 08/16/12 Page 3 of 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of				
Address of Plaintiff: 143 BOY 49th St. BNOKYN, NY 11214					
Address of Defendant 507 Prudential Rd., Htt	rsham PA 19044				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:					
(Use Reverse Side For A	dditional Space)				
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	nd any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?				
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)	Yes No No				
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No.				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:				
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	<b>-</b>				
Yes No Version 1. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?					
	Yes No No				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier r	numbered case pending or within one year previously				
terminated action in this court?	Yes No				
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	s case filed by the same individual?				
	Yes No No				
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)					
<ul> <li>A. Federal Question Cases:</li> <li>1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts</li> </ul>	<ul><li>B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:</li><li>1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts</li></ul>				
2. □ FELA	2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury				
3.   Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. ☐ Assault, Defamation				
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury				
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury				
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please				
Dubbl Management Petavions	specify)				
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability				
8.  Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos				
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases				
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	·				
11. All other Federal Question Cases   SU.S.C. \( \)	(Please specify)				
(Please specify)	TT ( ) TT ( ) T				
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION  (Check Appropriate Category)  1, COOLO THOW HMM O, counsel of record do hereby certify:					
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the past of my knowledge and					
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
D8/10/12	51100				
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#				
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in this court				
except as noted above.	C1.50				
DATE: US IUIA	5/100				
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#				

CIV. 609 (6/08)

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 CECIL SHIELDS, 4 Plaintiff Case No.: 5 V. COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 6 **JURY TRIAL** NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 7 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) Defendant 8 **COMPLAINT** 9 SHIELDS ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, KIMMEL & CECIL 10 SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 11 12 ("Defendant"): 13 INTRODUCTION 14 Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 1. 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 16 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 17 Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 2. 18 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 19 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 20 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 21 Defendant conducts business and has its principal office located in the 3. 22 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; therefore, personal jurisdiction is established. 23 Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1). 4. 24 25 -1-

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Brooklyn, New York 11214 at the time of the alleged harassment.
  - 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. In the alternative, Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a) and Wenrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 12. Upon information and belief, the alleged debt arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 13. Beginning in November 2011 and continuing through April 10, 2012, Defendant repeatedly and continuously contacted Plaintiff on his home and cellular telephones in its attempts to collect a debt.

#### Case 2:12-cv-04653-JS Document 1 Filed 08/16/12 Page 6 of 10

- 14. During the relevant period, Defendant contacted Plaintiff, on average, two (2) times a day, sometimes calling him as frequently as four (4) times a day, which caused Plaintiff to receive more than ten (10) collection calls a week.
- 15. Plaintiff received numerous calls from Defendant which appeared on his caller id as "Unknown." Plaintiff knew it was Defendant calling because an automated message was placed on his answering machine stating that the call was from "NCO Financial Systems, Incorporated."
- 16. In these messages, various persons were identified for Plaintiff to call at Defendant's call centers, for example a person identified as "Diane Myers" at "(800) 334-0626," a number the undersigned has confirmed belongs to Defendant.
- 17. During his conversations with the debt collectors, Defendant refused to provide any information about the debt, despite repeated requests.
- 18. Where Plaintiff was able to speak with a live collector, he clearly instructed all calls to cease and for Defendant to stop "harassing" him.
- 19. During conversations, Defendant would not disclose the purpose of calls until Plaintiff provided his social security number and date of birth, information which Defendant had no legal right to demand as a prerequisite to mandatory FDCPA disclosures.
- 20. Plaintiff did not want to provide this information disclosed to Defendant until the collector would indicate the reason for the calls contacted and details about the debt.
- 21. Moreover, in at least one conversation Plaintiff was told that he had to cooperate or face possible legal consequences, which included the threat of legal action against him.
- 22. Upon information and belief, at the time Defendant made these statements to, no legal action was intended to be taken.

- 23. Despite Plaintiff's instructions to stop harassing him, Defendant continued to call in its attempts to collect a consumer debt.
- 24. Lastly, within five (5) days of its initial communication with Plaintiff, Defendant failed to send Plaintiff written notification of his rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification as well as informing his of the amount of the debt and the name of the creditor.
- 25. Defendant has not sent any written correspondence to Plaintiff and to date, no details of the claimed debt, original creditor or amount are known.
- 26. Defendant's actions were intentionally harassing in the manner it placed phone calls and deceptive in that demands were made for personal information as a perquisite to FDCPA disclosures that Defendant was required to make to Plaintiff.

# DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT COUNT I

- 27. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692d and 1692d(5).
  - a. A debt collector violates § 1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt.
  - b. Section 1692d(5) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from causing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number.
  - c. Here, Defendant violated §§1692d and 1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it called Plaintiff's home and cellular telephones, multiple times a day, on a

daily basis, in attempts to harass Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the debt.

d. Furthermore, Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by continuing to call Plaintiff after he informed them that its calls were harassing.

#### **COUNT II**

- 28. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692e and 1692e(5).
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692e of the FDCPA by using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt; and
  - b. A debt collector violates §1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.
  - c. Here, Defendant violated §§1692e and 1692e(5) of the FDCPA by falsely implying to Plaintiff that it will take legal action if Plaintiff does not cooperate with it, despite lacking the legal authority and/or intent to take such actions at the time it made these threats.

#### **COUNT III**

- 29. Defendant's conduct, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §1692f.
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
  - b. Here, Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA engaging in other unfair and unconscionable debt collection practices, including requiring that

2

3

4

5

6 7

a.

8

10

9

11

12 13

14

15

16

17 18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Plaintiff provide personal information (social security number and date of birth) before it would tell Plaintiff why it was calling.

#### **COUNT IV**

- 30. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a).
  - A debt collector violates §1692g(a) of the FDCPA by failing to send to the consumer, within five days after its initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of a debt, a written notice containing: (1) the amount of the debt; (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed; (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector; (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.
  - b. Here, Defendant violated §1692g(a) of the FDCPA by failing to send written notification, within five (5) days after its initial communication with Plaintiff, advising Plaintiff of his rights to dispute the debt or request

#### Case 2:12-cv-04653-JS Document 1 Filed 08/16/12 Page 10 of 10

verification of the debt or providing his with the name of the original 1 2 creditor and the amount of the debt. 3 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CECIL SHIELDS, respectfully prays for a judgment as 4 follows: 5 a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1); 6 b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 7 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); 8 c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation 9 costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and 10 d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court. 11 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 12 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, CECIL SHIELDS, demands a jury trial in this 13 case. 14 15 DATED: 08 16 12 16 By: 17 Craig Thor Kimmel

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

Attorney ID # 57100 Kimmel & Silverman, P.C. 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002

Phone: (215) 540-8888 ext. 116

Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com

24 25

18

19

20

21

22

23